

National Fire Plan

Department of the Interior and US Department of Agriculture
www.fireplan.gov



FY 2003 Programs in Minnesota

The USDA Forest Service (FS) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) agencies are in the third year of successful implementation of National Fire Plan (NFP) activities. The NFP was developed in August 2000, following a landmark wildland fire season, with the intent of actively responding to severe wildland fires and their impacts to communities while assuring sufficient firefighting capacity for the future. The NFP addresses five key points: Firefighting, Rehabilitation, Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Community Assistance, and Accountability.

(dollars displayed in thousands)

USDA / DOI	Actual 2002	**Estimated 2003
Preparedness	7,989	8,981
Operations		
Suppression*		
Hazardous Fuel	8,354	12,335
Rehabilitation	0	
Fire Facilities	34	
Research and Development	1,711	
Joint Fire Sciences	0	
Forest Health Management	0	
State Fire Assistance	781	951
Volunteer Fire Assistance /Rural Fire Assistance	247	217
Economic Action Program	0	
TOTAL	19,115	22,484

* Suppression costs for Minnesota totaled \$4.2 million for 2002.

** Actual funding will be displayed in the 2003 Annual Performance Report.

Program Highlights

- With the aid of National Fire Plan funds made available through the U.S. Forest Service and administered by the Minnesota DNR, high-risk communities and homeowners are being provided with small grants to initiate Firewise and defensible space practices that remove flammable debris within 30 feet of a house, making it less prone to a spreading fire.
- In 2003, additional grant funding will result in the establishment of additional Firewise communities, continued hazard fuels mitigation projects, and additional dry hydrants.
- NFP funds are being used to employ local contractors to assist with the removal of hazardous fuels around homes across the state.

Fire Preparedness and Facilities

- Preparedness Resources
 - ## The USDA Forest Service will maintain preparedness resources at the 2002 level.
 - ## Department of the Interior will maintain 71 firefighting personnel, 8 engines, 1 helicopter, 4 dozers, and 1 airtanker

Rehabilitation

- Rehabilitation consists of 1) immediate actions to reduce threats to public safety, property and natural and cultural resources, and 2) long-term actions to help restore healthy ecosystems and replace infrastructure damaged by fire.
- DOI funding will cover ecological stabilization, reforestation (seeding, cultural protection invasive species, contour tree felling, monitoring).

- USDA Forest Service funding will be used to improve overall watershed condition and restore severely burned forests and rangelands. Projects include reforestation, watershed restoration, road and trail rehabilitation, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, planting and seeding and preventing invasive plants.

Hazardous Fuels Reduction

- Approximately 83,000 acres are planned for hazardous fuel treatment by federal agencies; an estimated 37,600 acres will be treated in the wildland urban interface.
- An estimated \$12.3 million will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.

Community Assistance

States are focusing funding on increasing wildland fire response capacity by enhancing their level of fire preparedness, training wildland firefighters, purchasing personal protective equipment, conducting fire education and prevention activities including Firewise projects, implementing hazard mitigation projects addressing fuel reduction and installation of dry hydrants, and fire planning projects assessing communities at risk.

- Rural Fire Assistance (DOI) – \$217,000
40 rural/volunteer departments will receive assistance.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding – \$951,000

Accountability

- DOI and USDA Forest Service have developed a uniform set of performance measures to assess program effectiveness for FY 2003 and FY 2004 program measurement.
- DOI and USDA Forest Service, with input from the National Association of State Foresters, developed action plans for nearly all of the 23 tasks in the Implementation Plan for the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy. The State Foresters and their partners are continuing to develop field guidance for fuels reduction projects.
- DOI and USDA Forest Service developed the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS), a common data collection and reporting system for gathering project plans and accomplishments.

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